TWENTY-NINTH CONGRESS,

TUESDAY, August 4, 1846.

IN SENATE. The journal having been read-

The journal having been read—

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. ALLEN rose and called the attention of the senator from South Carolins [Mr. Calhoun] to certain reported remarks of that senator in relation to the independent treasury bill, wherein he was represented as declaring himself averas to any restriction being placed upon the circulation of treasury drafts. Mr. A. said it was the intention of himself and of those who voted with him, to leave the bill in the state in which it came from the House, so far as relates to these treasury drafts; and he made this explanation for the purposes showing: first, that he had proposed no restriction, therefore the statement that he had done so was not true in point of fact; secondly, to remove the impression that the treasury had before issued drafts for circulation, and that he (Mr. A.) by restricting the circulation, intended to embarrass the administration of the department.

Mr. CALHOUN said he believed that the report was substantially correct. His opinion in regard to the matter was that, upon first putting in operation the system of a separation of the government from the banks there ought to be no restriction imposed upon the circulation of the treasury drafts; and none, in point of fact, thereafter, unless experience showed that it was necessary. There was, in his opinion, no one objection that could be urged against putting these drafts into circulation by paying them to the government creditor, which would not equally apply when it was proposed to exchange them for gold and silver. He regretted to be obliged to differ somewhat upon this point with his friends upon that side, but he was governed in this instance, as in all others, by the convictions of his judgments.

Mr. BENTON said he knew of ne such use ever before having been made of treasury drafts as to allow the disbursing officer of the government to pay PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BENTON said he knew of no such use ever before having been made of treasury drafts as to al-low the disbursing officer of the government to pay them away instead of money. Add he declared that he regarded it as a high crime and misdemanor on the part of any Secretary of the Treasury to propose such a thing as making paper to be issued by the government a circulating medium. Mr. LEWIS made a brief explanation, in the

Mr. LEWIS made a brief explanation, in the course of which he took occasion to correct a misrepresentation which he said had gone abroad through the magnetic telegraph, and had been copied into all the northern papers; that he (Mr. L.) had proposed, at the instance of the Secretary of the Treasury, an unlimited issue of treasury notes; and that the senator from Missouri had resisted the proposition. It was true the senator from Missouri had insue of the treasury had imputed this consequence to the amendment which he had proposed for the payment of the treasury drafts to the public creditors, but he thought this position of the honorable senator from Missouri was controverted. It was not intended to have, nor would it have, any such consequence. These drafts were proposed to be drawn upon actual deposites of money, and paid to actual creditors of the government. They would in this way enter into circulation none the more than if they were, as provided by the original bill, exchanged for gold and silver. He was opposed to a government paper circulation, and he had supportchanged for gold and silver. He was opposed to a government paper circulation, and he had support-ed his amendment expressly on the ground that it would not lead to any such consequence. Yet he had been represented as proposing an illimitable is-sue of government paper. He hoped the newspa-pers would hereafter do him better justice. Only one paper (the "Union") had give his former cor-

one paper (the "Union") had give his former correction of this misrepresentation.

Mr. CALHOUN observed that, as far as he was
himself concerned, he had no apprehension that he
was at all exposed to the danger of being considered
in favor of a paper currency. His views upon this
subject had been expressed too often to admit of
being misconstrued by any portion of the community.

Mr. SIMMONS said he was somewhat surpris

Mr. SIMMONS said he was somewhat surprised to hear the honorable chairman of the Finance Committee continue to express the belief that his amendment would, if adopted, have afforded no greater facilities for putting into circulation this paper money, as he called it.

Mr. LEWIS. Paper money, as others call it.

Mr. SIMMONS. Well, these treasury drafts, then, if under the bill as it originally stood they were to be exchanged for gold and silver. In the latter case they were not likely to become a currency unless some one would give gold and silver for them. And he believed it would be a rather difficult matter to find any one who would do this. But as for their heing readily taken for debts due by the government, is was quite sure that many a creditor of the government would be a fact to be they got through the difficulties in which they would soon find the lives involved. He thought there was a very broad distinction between the provisions of the bill and the amendment. The bill was bad enough as it now stood, but it would have been still worse had the amendment prevailed. As the bill came from the House there were various restrictions—

proposed additional ones.

Mr. SIMMONS. There were various restriction on tained in it, and yet the senator set about amendating the senator senator senator set about amendating the senator s

Mr. LEWIS. Yes, by adding other restric

Mr. SIMMONS. If the senator believed tha

Mr. SIMMONS hereupon resumed his seat, and

Mr. HANNEGAN submitted the following reso

Resolved, That there be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate, under the direction of the committee to an ist and control the same to

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES. Mr. ATCHISON, from the Committee on the Militia, asked that said committee be discharged from the further consideration of a resolution instructing them to inquire into the expediency of organizing and equipping the military of the Oregon territory; resolutions of the legislature of New York as the subject of the military interritory.

territory; resolutions of the legislature of New York on the subject of the militus; memorial of Ross Snowden and others; and report of the Secretary of War of the 3d of February, exhibiting the militus of the States and Territories; which was agreed to.

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Commerce, reported without amendment the House bill for the relief of Nathan Smith and others.

Mr. D. also, from the same committee, reported without amendment the House bill for the relief of the owner and crew of the schooner Tancred.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEPENSIVE WORKS. Mr. DIX, from the Committee on Military Af-fairs, reported back without amendment the House bill making appropriations for certain defensive works of the United States for the year ending 30th

June, 1847.
Mr. PEARCE, from the Committee on Pension Mr. PEARCE, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted a report upon the House bill for the relief of Catharine Fulton, of Washington county, Pennsylvania, recommending that the consideration of the subject be postponed indefinitely; which was agreed to, and the report was ordered to be printed. Mr. P. also, from the same committee, reported back House bills for the relief of George Roash, Jonathan Brown, and Polly Damron, recommending that their further consideration be postponed indefinitely; which was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. P., the Committee on Pensions were discharged from the further consideration of the petitions of Hector St. John Beetley, Robert Armstrong, Eliza Buchanan, N. Nye Hall, and Wm. Miller, legal representatives of Lemuel P. Montgomery, and William D. Conecy.

INTRODUCTION OF JOINT RESOLUTION Mr. DAVIS pursuant to notice asked and obtained leave to introduce a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of War to adjust, by arbitration, a controversy between the United States and David Ames; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

DUTIES ON RAILROAD IRON.

On motion of Mr. LEWIS, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the "bill to remit the duties which have been paid or have accrued upon the importation of railroad iron in certain cases;" as in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. EVANS apoke at some length in favor of the refunding of the duty. He described the hardships of exacting the duty in those cases where the iron had been imported, but was not laid down in consequence of the embarrassments of 1837, 1838, and 1839. In those years many of the States were obliged to suspend these works; and that had been obliged to suspend these works; and that had been the case of course with many incorporations also, it had been supposed by some that it was inconsistent to advocate the tariff of 1842, and to be at the same time willing to relieve this description of articles from duty. His justification was, that he regarded the railroad iron as an article on which the domestic labor of the country was to be expended. It required the expenditure of domestic industry to

make the article valuable and useful. It was estimated that one hundred and fifty millions of dollars had been expended in the construction of railroads in the United States. These works increased incalculably the general prosperity, and augmented the revenue. All that had been done for them by the general government was the remission of about five millions of duty. He maintained that the United States had not done enough to encourage those works, from which it had received so much benefit. But the proposed measure was not prospective. It was intended only to enable those companies which were at present struggling on, and whose roads were in an unfinished condition, to prosecute their enterprises to a successful termination. It had been sometimes asked, why refund to States and incorporations, and not to individuals who buy iron? But that would be impracticable and impos-

States had not done enough to encourage those works, from which it had received so much benefit. But the proposed measure was not prospective. It was intended only to enable those companies which were at present struggling on, and whose roads were in an unfinished condition, to prosecute their enterprises to a succeasful termination. It had been sometimes asked, why refund to States and incorporations, and not to individuals who buy iron? But that would be impracticable and impossible. He would refund to the railroad companies, because, by doing so, he would directly benefit the farmer. The producing classes would be all greatly benefited by the completion of these easy means of transportation. He would say one word to the farmers of the west who were now expecting a large extension of the foreign market. It would be altogether impossible for them to realize to any extent these hopes without means of cheap transportation for their agricultural products to the place of shipment. Everything which tended to facilitate and cheapen the conveyance of the products of Michigan and Illinois to the navigable waters, he need not say, tended to promote in the most direct manner the interests of the farmers in those regions. No resistance should be made to this measure, even but the form interest of Pennaylvania. That State

means of transportation.

Mr. DICKINSON remarked that the State which

means of transportation.

Mr. DICKINSON remarked that the State which he had the honor in part to represent was interested in this subject, and with the view of testing the sense of the Senate, he offered the following amendment:

.dm be it further enacted. That when any iron in bars weighing not less than fifty pounds the linest yard, fitted and prepared without any further manufacture to be laid down for permanent use on any rainroad or inclined plain, shall be imported into the United states within the period of two years from the passage of this act by any State or incorporated company, the same shall be admitted to entry agon the giving by such siate or company, or its authorized ogenis, good and sufficient bonds, with sucreties to the satisfaction of the collector of the port where such iron may be imported, for the payment of the duties chargeable thereon in three years from the time of such importation; and whenever it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury that any such iron has been actually permanently laid down for use (in the original construction) of any railroad or inclined plaine, now authorized by law to be made in the United States within the said period of three years, and secretary shall cause the bond given on the importation of such iron so laid down, or so much thereof as is applicable to said iron, to be cancelled and discharged upon the payment of all custom-house less and charges incurred by such importation.

Mr. CASS asked if the gentleman from Maine was able to state any estimate of the amount which would be abstracted from the treasury by refunding these duties?

Mr. EVANS replied in the negative, adding that

mr. H. JOHNSON, the motion was withdrawn,

Remits to West Feliciana Railroad Company duties on certain railroad iron imported into New Orleans, and sunk and wholly lost while on the passage from that port to Bay Sacretary of the Treasury, that the iron was so lost. Also allowing to the Mexican Guill Railroad Company, on App outstanding bonds given by said company, upon the importation of railroad iron, an amount equal to all the duties upon certain railroad iron imported by the Nashville Railroad Company within three years from the period of its importation, for which the United States hold the bonds of said Nashville Railroad Company, and that no remission or allowance of said duty has been so laid down by said Mexican Guil Railroad Company, and that no remission or allowance of said duty has been made; And provided further, That the parties entitled to the remission, &c., shall tirst pay all costs and expenses incurred by the United States in the premises.

Mr. EVANS stated that it would be exceedingly difficult, if not impracticable, to obtain speedily an estimate of the amount to be refunded.

Mr. BAGBY withdrew his motion to lay on the

table.

Mr. ALLEN opposed the bill with much earnestness. He contended that it was unconstitutional
and unjust. It was taxing the honest, hard-working farmer for the benefit of monopolizing corpora-

Mr. BERRIEN replied. The measure, he ar-Mr. BERRIEN replied. The measure, he argued, was one eminently calculated to benefit the farmer, whose prosperity depended in a great degree on the possession or ready and cheap means of conveying his products to market. He found, by a newspaper received by last night's mail, that in the interior of Georgia wheat of the finest quality was only 374 cents. Why? Because of the want of those facilities which these railroads would afford.

Mr. ATHERTON opposed the bill in a forcible manner.

nanner.

Mr. BAGBY renewed his motion to lay on the able; and on that question the yeas and nays were asked, ordered, and taken, with the following result:

YEAS—Messrs, Allen, Ashley, Atherton, Bagby, Benton, Breeze, Bright, Cameron, Cass, Dayton, Dis, Fairfield, Hannegan, Houston, Miller, Niles, Semple, Sevier, Sturgeon, and Turney—30.

NAYS—Messrs. Archer, Barrow, Berrien, Calhoun, Cilley, J. M. Clayton, Thomas Clayton, Colquitt, Corwin, Davis, Dickinson, Greene, Jarnagin, Johnson of Louisians, Johnson of Maryland, Lewis, McDuffle, Mangum, Phelps, Simmons, Speight, Upham, Webster, Woodbridge, and Yules—36.

So the motion was not laid on the table; and the question then recurred on a verbal amendment offered by the senator from Delaware, [Mr. J. M. Clatton,] (which the reporter was not able to obtain,) and it was rejected.

The question was then taken on the amendment of the senator from New York, [Mr. Dickinson,] and it also was rejected.

The question was then taken on the amendment offered by the senator from Louisiana, [Mr. Johnson,] and it was agreed to.

Mr. ASHLEY then offered the following amendment

ne following result:

YEAS-Messus. Archer, Barrow, Berrien, Call
halmers, John M. Clayton, Thomas Clayton, Col
orwin, Evans, Greene, Jarnagin, Johnson of Loui
Johnson of Maryland, Lewis, McDuffe, Mangum, Fl
limmons, Speight, Upham, Webster, Woodbridge

immous, Speight, Upham, Webster, Woodbridge, and fulce—44.

NAYS-Messrs, Allen, Ashley, Atherton, Bagby, Benon, Bright, Cameron, Casa, Cilley, Dayton, Dickinson, Miller, Rusk, Semple, Astronous, Miller, Rusk, Semple, serier, Storgoon, and Turney—21.

So the bill was ordered to be read a third time.

Mr. EVANS moved that it be read a third time by

s title. Mr. ATHERTON objected; and then on motion Mr. LEWIS, the Senate proceeded to the consid-

ss in committee of the whole; when, in pursuance of notice given yesterday,

Mr. BENTON rose and proposed to amend the bill by inserting as follows:

"For paying the principal and interest of the fourth and fifth instalments of the 8.exican indemnities, due in April and July, in the year 1844, the sum of \$330.000. Proceeded the claimants, each for himself, shall relinquish to the United States his right to said instalments.

Mr. B. supported this agreement in Advances in Advances.

to the short in part to represent was inneressed in the subject, and with the size of classification of the Bosta, is, noticed the following assessment of the Bosta, is noticed the following assessment and the Bosta, is noticed the following assessment of the Bosta, is noticed the following assessment of the Bosta, is noticed the following assessment of the Bosta and Part of the State of the

"The following orders are to be delivered: An order the general treasury to issue a draft (requisition) on the

amount of \$160,000.

"Another to the general treasury, to receive from Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. the amount of \$274,664 67, in effective money, and \$100,330 33 in funds, anterior or posterior to the independence, which yield diridends; and for the delivery of which the term of six months is allowed them. Besides which, a premium of it per cent. per month is to be allowed to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. for their

is to be allowed to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, a Co. for their advances.

"His excellency the minister of finance, in the name of his excellency the president of the republic, pledges his word to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co., as British subjects, that for no cause or motive, whatsoever, the payments set forth in the above proposition shall be suspended until the cuttre discharge of the debt be effected; and if it should not be thus effected, that the treasury of the nation shall indemnify them for their losses and injuries.

"Mexico, August 25, 1844.

"This repossition having been examined by his excellen-

"Size: In reply to your letter of yesterda bether the order for \$60,000 on Manning & ! whether the order for \$60.000 on Manning & Mackintons, referred to in our previous letters on the ablject of our arrangement with Mr. Voss, had been mislaid while in his possession, we beg to say that the order was in the first instance returned to him by those gentlemen, and, though afterwards is our possession, it was subsequently, or various occasions, in his; consequently, we are quite at a loss to say by whom it was ultimately mislaid. At the same time, we entertain no doubt that as soon as the existing government here has arranged the public offices, a duplicate of the order will be easily obtained, by which this question will be set at rest.

"We have the honor to be, sir,

"Your most obelient, humble servants.

"TAYLEUR, JAMISON & CO."

"The Hon. John Shipell, "Envoy Extraordinary, &c., &c., &c."

"Envoy Extraordinary, &c., &c., &c."
So much for that \$60,000. Another curious
is, that out of the \$110,000 draft on the tobacco ties, only \$4,664 67 are offered to be returned by the English house. That is to say, this house hav-ing received \$380,000 to pay us \$274,000 in specie, and not having paid us, now propose to pay that amount in a part of the drafts which they received. Here is their letter which shows their offer:

"Mesers. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co., to Mr. Voss.

States.
"It is true, that the amount to which Voss refers was not delivered to him in affective."

resentatives, announcing the action of said House on the river and harbor appropriation bill; also, that said House had passed the French spoliation bill.]

Mr. JOHNSON, of Louisiana, from the Committee on Pensions, asked that said committee be distanced from the further consideration of the petition of citizens of New Hampshire, presented the 22d December, 1845; which was agreed to.

Mr. J. also, from the committee be distanced from the further consideration of the petition of citizens of New Hampshire, presented the 22d December, 1845; which was agreed to.

Mr. J. also, from the same committee, reported without amendment the House bill for the relief of Silas Waterman, of the county of Washington, Vermont, with a recommendation that its further consideration be postponed indefinitely; which report was cencurred in.

Mr. CAMERON, from the Committee on Patents and the Patent Office, reported with amendments

ground! This is the case now: this has been the case ever since the custom-house bushel was established: it will be the case as long as it lasts; and that it will be just as long as there is any tax at all on salt. One per cent. will keep up this false bushel, as well as twenty; and twenty will keep it up as well as twenty; and twenty will keep it up as well as an hundred per cent. would. Therefore, the reduction is an illusion, and nothing will do but the passage of the old Jeffergonian bill which I have introduced. Thus the correction of the great blunder in the bill, which gives the whole salt tax and half as much more to the fishermen—the abolition of the monopolies in the scaports which trebie and quaduple the price of the article—and the restoration of the honest measured for the false and fraudulent weighed bushel—all require the bill which I have introduced to be passed.

Mr. DICKINSON then rose and made a remark Mr. CAMERON, from the Committee on Patents and the Patent Office, reported with amendments the bill declaratory of the powers and legalizing certan acts of the chief clerk of the Patent Office.

Mr. EVANS, from the Committee on Finance, submitted an adverse report upon the memorial of Edwin Bartlett; which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. ATHERTON, from the Committee on Print-

The control of the complete co

Extractionary enters up. He was opposed to the degree of the control of the contr

the bill by inserting an appropriation of \$4,319 to pay for 350 copies of a compend of the revenue law compiled by Thomas F. Gordon; which amendment

Mr. J. M. CLAYTON

TOPOGRAPHICAL BUREAU. Mr. EVANS submitted an amendment, appropriating \$4,988 for reducing and preparing for publication, under a resolution of the Senate, plans and drawings made by the officers of the topographical bureau for the improvement of harbors, rivers, &c.; which was adopted.

Mr. DIX submitted the following amendment which was agreed to:

"For refunding to James Buchanan, late her Britannic
Majesty's consul at the city of New York, moneys disbursed by him, and compensating him for services performed, in respect to the slaver Catharine, condemned and
sold at the suit of the United States, the sum of \$2,144 75.

MARINE HOSPITAL. Mr. D. also, from the Committee on Co Mr. D. also, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted an amendment appropriating \$7,000 for completing the marine hospital at New Orleans, and providing suitable furniture therefor.

Mr. D. supported the amendment, stating the absolute necessity of an appropriation for the purpose

in question.

Mr. LEWIS opposed. If this appropriation was granted, (he said,) it would open the way for applications for similar purposes from all parts of the

A message was received from the House of Representatives, announcing that said House had resolved to insist upon its amendments to the bill granting a pension to Richard Elliott, and the bill providing for the payment of the evidences of public debt in certain cases, and asking a conference on the disagreeing votes.]

Mr. ARCHER submitted the following amendment: which was adonted, viz.

ent; which was adopted, viz:

Mr. DAVIS submitted the following amendment; which, after discussion by Messrs. DAVIS, SPEIGHT, HUNTINGTON, EVANS, CALHOUN, and NILES, was adopted—yeas 26, nays 17, viz:

ported as due to the State by the Secretary of War."

CUSTOM-HOUSE AT NEW ORLEANS.

Mr. JOHNSON moved to amend the bill "by serting an appropriation of \$100,000 for the erect of a custom-house at New Orleans."

Mr. LEWIS opposed the amendment.

Mr. JOHNSON earnessly advocated the appropriation.

printion.

The question was then taken, and the amendment rejected—yeas 7, nays not counted. MARINE HOSPITAL.

Mr. SEVIER submitted an amendment,

cations for similar purposes country.

After some further remarks in favor of the amendment, by Messra, HUNTINGTON, DIX, DAVIS, and JOHNSON of Louisians, it was adopted.

TERRITORIAL GOYERNMENT OF FLORIDA.

Mr. YULEE submitted the following amendment, which he briefly supported, viz:

"To pay arrears of expense of the legislature and executive of the late Territory of Florida for the years 1842, 1843.

844, and 1846, \$6,000."

The question was taken on the above amendment, and decided in the negative.

[A message was received from the House of Rep-

Insert at the end of the class called "miscella

"To the State of Virginis, \$64,452 87, claimed by her as due under the act of 5th July, 1832, entitled "An act for ilquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Vir-ginia."

17, viz:

"To reimburse the State of Massachusette, for milith service in the late war, \$227,176, or such sum as has been reported as due to the State by the Secretary of War."